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THE CHOLERA SITUATION.

The number of cases of cholera being reported in Italy and Russia continues to decrease. According to last advices a few cases were still being reported in Austria-Hungary. From October 15 to November 11, 22 cases of cholera were reported on the island of Malta, where the infection is supposed to have been carried by refugees from Tripoli. Nine cases of cholera have been reported at Antivari, the seaport of Montenegro. In Tunis the cities of Tunis and Beja were declared by the authorities to be free from cholera on November 3, and the city of Bizerte was so declared November 4. Outside of these cities, however, the disease continues present.

PELLAGRA AS OBSERVED IN BARBADOS.

By P. G. SMITH, Acting Assistant Surgeon, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

Upon visiting the out-patient department of the Barbados General Hospital, at Bridgetown, one is impressed with the large number of patients who come in for treatment, almost invariably giving the same history and presenting a most remarkable chain of symptoms.

These patients give a history of failure in appetite, falling off in weight, lassitude, slight vertigo, a burning sensation in the stomach, and in most instances diarrhea. This class of patients rarely improves under treatment, and within a few weeks or months they can be found in the hospital wards at the St. Michael's Almshouse. Later, when serious mental symptoms develop, it becomes necessary to admit them to the asylum for the insane, where they can be properly restrained.

Physical examination shows marked anemia, pulse increased and weak, and the temperature normal or slightly subnormal. The skin feels hard and dry and symmetrical pigmented patches are found scattered over the knuckles, backs of the hands, wrists, elbows, ankles, and on the fronts of the legs. These pigmented patches have a scaly, branlike appearance and sometimes can be brushed off, leaving an apparently healthy underskin, which rapidly becomes again pigmented. The lips are red and the gums somewhat spongy. The tongue is red and swollen, and along its edges may be seen a few pigmented spots, varying in size from a pin's head to a small pea, and in some places the tongue appears to be denuded of its epithelium. There may also be seen on the tongue and buccal mucous membrane, and on the roof of the mouth, numerous small vesicles filled with a clear serum which break and leave small, regular-shaped ulcers, giving the parts a peculiar appearance.